



Applicant submits a declaration demonstrating completion of the invention in this country before the filing date of the Tang patent. Applicant declares that conception of his invention occurred before October 26, 2000. Such prior conception is demonstrated, in part, by his drawings of the invention created earlier than that date. Applicant also declares that he acted diligently to reduce the invention to practice from a time earlier than October 26, 2000 to the filing date of this application. Such diligence is demonstrated, in part, by his filing of a provisional application covering the invention on February 12, 2001. The Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) therefore should be withdrawn.

For at least the above reasons, claims 7-8 are patentable and in condition for allowance. Please contact applicant's attorney if there are any additional issues to address.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: NON-FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 16, 2004.

Mandi M. Leighty